

Asthma Task Force Meeting Minutes  
Utah Department of Health  
January 6, 2009

Welcome—Rebecca Giles, Asthma Program Manager

Action Group Updates

- Asthma Management—Becca Jorgensen
  - Pharmacist Project:
    - Pharmacists are a very accessible health professional and an under utilized resource for patients. Inhaler technique will be taught, and participants will receive personalized education. Patients will be seen at 1, 3, 6 and 12 months to review inhaler technique, and asthma control. 15 pharmacies are participating in the pilot program. They will begin seeing patients starting in February.
- Health Systems – Becca Jorgensen
  - Dr. Office Toolkit – see below
- Population Group—James Gordon, Brook Dorff
  - The advocate training will be held on January 21<sup>st</sup> at the UDOH, so far eight participants have volunteered to be part of the pilot program. The advocates will be going into any school they chose and will be conducting asthma awareness activities.
  - The school absenteeism assessment project was completed in January, and the group will be discussing the next steps to take after the needs assessment.
- Risk Factors—Dr. Steve Packham, Ali Martin
  - The updated Recess Guidance for Schools was distributed at the beginning of the school year in September.
  - Several brown bags have been and will be held as part of the group's activities to develop an ozone message for the public.
  - Agriculture is listed as a risk for respiratory disease. Projects for this industry include pesticide handout. The group is working to develop other materials. The Future Farmers of America is a new partner that has been identified and contacted regarding how to incorporate respiratory disease.

Asthma School Resource Manual

- Brief Overview:
  - Five years ago, the task force developed the manual for schools which contains relevant asthma information for personnel in a school. Interns are hired and hold 45 minute trainings for the teachers and other staff members. At the end of the training, each teacher gets their own laminated copy of the General Emergency Protocol, and the school gets one copy of the Asthma School Resource Manual. The staff members also take a pre and post test for evaluation purposes. Since the training started, about 300 schools have been trained.
- Evaluation:

- Celeste conducted an evaluation of the first two years of the program (2004-2006). The program reached 141 schools across 22 school districts. Over 80% of participants were classroom teachers, but the training participants also included administrators, kitchen staff, and other various staff members. The majority of schools reached were elementary schools and every person was asked to complete a pre and post test. Questions were asked on a variety of topics identifying their understanding of asthma, asthma triggers, and knowledge of what to do during an asthma attack. The majority of the people scored four or five out of five on the post test. Interns were also asked to complete an evaluation regarding their experiences. They reported that the presentation was generally received well when the principal had a good attitude and when it was scheduled during a regular meeting (as opposed to being optional). There was also an online survey administered gathering data on the long-term impact of the manual and training.
- Several recommendations were made based on the evaluation: 1) all interns should standardize trainings and methods of training; 2) seek ways to increase participation from school nurses, custodial and kitchen staff; and 3) expand the trainings into middle, junior high, and high schools.
- Adjustments are being made on the program based on the evaluation, and those will be presented to the Task Force.

#### Health Care Provider Office Toolkit—Becca J.

- Background:
  - The majority of asthma is seen in the doctor's office. A survey was conducted with personnel from clinic office to staff to understand what asthma education is occurring in the office, how is it being done, and who is providing it. The needs assessment identified that all staff members could use assistance in establishing the education plan for each patient and that patients needed education materials based mainly on inhaler technique, controlling triggers and asthma action plans. The Task Force helped create a toolkit based on the NAEPP guidelines. The toolkit is short, easy to use, and based on the concept of reinforcing and repeating asthma practices.
- Layout of toolkit:
  - Included in the toolkit are: three steps on how to provide education, patient education materials, and medical staff learning materials. (See attachment)

#### Michelle Hofmann: Cleaning up the air out there

- Utah Moms for Clean Air: Who We Are?
  - A committee founded by 7 women
  - Subcommittees:
    - Transportation, education outreach, clean energy, government relations, regulatory oversight, science, publications and virtual outreach, fundraising and event organizing, and media

- We believe in collaboration and cooperation, and science-based solutions that will clean the air that we all share in Utah
- Schools—Three Main Projects:
  - Diesel School Bus Retrofits:
    - Definition of a retrofit: aftermarket vehicle addition that reduces pollutants found in bus cabin and tailpipe emissions
    - The Utah Moms for Clean Air found that vehicles and cars had had no improvements made until 2007, so a lot of the buses were the exact same from the 1950's
    - The retrofits were efficient, easy to install, and cost effective and reduces PM2.5 by 40%, carbon monoxide by 60%, and volatile organic compounds by 75%
    - They figured out that Utah was not applying successfully for the federal money, so more partners were needed for funding. The Utah Moms wanted to tap into the funds that were available from the EPA and Utah HB 146 (2008) both of which have two components—idling reduction education, and providing funding to do retrofits. They used experiences drawn from Davis County
    - From this came the Utah clean school bus project which was a collaborative effort including the EPA, Utah legislators, Utah DAQ, Utah State Office of Education, UDOT, etc.
      - The goal of the project was to secure funding for school districts to purchase emission reducing technologies for school buses statewide
      - The project included several phases focusing on different geographic areas and has been very successful
  - Vehicle Idling
    - Over half of our air pollution is caused by mobile sources. The data showed that people in the cars are actually exposed to idling emissions more than those who are outside.
    - Other facts include idling for 10 seconds uses same amount of gas as restarting car, and a car only needs to be warmed up for 30 seconds, etc.
    - Utah Moms for Clean Air decided that teaching children about vehicle idling would be the best direction to take as they would be the ones teaching the parents. They decided to enroll local leaders, make it law, and eventually branch out to businesses (airports, drive-thrus, etc)
    - Idle-free Utah was the campaign that began from their efforts: <http://www.idlefree.utah.gov/>
  - The Mountain View Corridor
    - The proximity of the proposed highway to public schools - it will run north-south at 5800 West - had Utah Moms for Clean Air and other health advocacy groups very concerned. Particulate matter and other pollutants in automotive exhaust are particularly harsh on young lungs.

- The result from this project is that the highway was reduced to two lanes each way instead of four, traffic lights were installed to discourage diesel traffic, air filters were installed for schools in the area, land was purchased to move one elementary school, and designated rapid-transit bus lanes that will phase-in to TRAX.
- If you have any questions, feel free to visit the Utah Moms for Clean Air website at: <http://www.utahmomsforcleanair.org/>

Announcements:

- Next Task Force Meeting  
April 7, 2009 7:30-9:00 am  
UDOH room 125